

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

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O 151753Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091351

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 15 APR 1976 QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3349

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: ARAFAT PLAN

1. BY SEPARATE CABLE, I'M SENDING AN ANALYSIS OF THE ARAFAT PLAN WHICH WAS REVEALED TO THE LEFT LAST NIGHT AND WHICH ARAFAT IS CARRYING TO DAMASCUS TODAY. THE ARAFAT PLAN RESEMBLES QUITE CLOSELY BROWN'S PERSONAL SUGGESTIONS AND I FEEL AS IF I'VE BEEN MUGGED.

2. WHAT WE SEE IS THE FINESSE OF ARAFAT. HE HAS STAYED AFLOAT ALL THESE YEARS BECAUSE HE IS A SUPERB POLITICAL STRATEGIST.

3. WE ARE WITNESSING A BIG SWING. FEW WEEKS AGO HE
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PICKED A SIDE, SUPPORTED IT WITH MEN AND MONEY, FOUGHT,

RECOGNIZED HE COULDN'T WIN FIRST, BECAUSE OF GREATER
RESISTANCE THAN EXPECTED AND, SECOND, SYRIAN
OBJECTION AFTER IT WENT ON TOO LONG. NOW, REPEAT
NOW, FROM PROTAGONIST HE TURNS HIMSELF INTO MEDIATOR.
IT IS A CLEVER MOVE.

4. HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS, AFTER ALL THE BOMBASTIC
TALK OF RECENT DAYS BY BOTH THE LEFT AND THE PLO,
IS NOT A RETREAT BUT A BASIC CHANGE IN STRATEGY, EVEN
THOUGH IT LOOKS SOMEWHAT LIKE CANASTA. A BOW TO ASAD
AND THE EMERGENCE OF A PLO/SYRIAN/LEBANESE PLAN FOR THE
FUTURE WILL IN ARAFAT'S EYES: FIRST, PRESERVE HIM;
SECOND, SQUEEZE SAIQA; AND THIRD, GIVE HIM A BIG VOICE
IN THE FUTURE OF LEBANON.
BROWN UNQTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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